Boyd Camak

Monthly Archives: May 2024

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Previous Hypocrisy

PDF of early blog posts… from backup files
September 5, 2025

These intrusive sports betting sites ads on Spotify are legalized crime.
September 5, 2025

(no title)
September 5,

When I started in tech sales circa 2007, one of the first things they said in training was, you don't want to sound like vendor verbal vomit. This blog is vendor verbal vomit. The only thing I have to sell is sin, confusion, blindness, vice, disorder, profanity, despair, and death. I hear that sometimes the Holy Spirit uses this

2025

Stigma is not changed directly: “Change your opinion about X.” It probably has to be changed by a life disruption that triggers a more comprehensive shift in perception.

September 5, 2025

podcast outtake

September 4, 2025

priority scramble?

September 4, 2025

Jesus is for people.

September 3, 2025

(no title)

September 3, 2025

Here’s a quick AI summary. I hope it helps someone.

September 3, 2025

ICYMI (what the gospel ISN’T–and is)

Edit

Posted on May 31, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

The Gospel is not about being saved from an offended deity. It is a revelation of the infinitely extreme lengths that God will go to to demonstrate His love for us–in order to save us from ourselves.

| Tagged Trail 1: The Counterintuitive Gospel |

Leave a comment

FWIW these are 21 of the writers/thinkers that have been the most helpful to me on the journey

Edit

collage of cliches and foolishness to do some good.

FREE. TAKE IT.

ABANDONED SECTION

Thrown / Disoriented / Unmoored

[DRAFT--better blog navigation under construction]

About

art and music (draft)

Contact Me

expired fine print

topics etc. (draft)

FREE. TAKE IT.
September 2, 2025
hot take: The enemy is delighted that I spend most of my time thinking about the implications of my *ideas about God's love* rather than the implications of God's love itself.
August 15, 2025
hot take: why can't we just say "God loves you," and leave it at that?
August 15, 2025
hot take: most theology is demonic.
August 15, 2025
WTF? (cf. The Apostle Paul)
August 13, 2025
Change How You See the

for the past 12 years.

Posted on May 29, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

1. Henri Nouwen

A Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian known for his work on spirituality, social justice, and community life.

2. Rowan Williams

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, theologian, and poet, notable for his deep scholarly work and efforts to bridge gaps within the Anglican Communion.

3. Ignatius of Loyola

The Spanish priest and theologian who founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and authored the influential "Spiritual Exercises."

4. Louis Evely

A Belgian priest and author known for his accessible and inspirational

World (For the Better) | LITTLE BY LITTLE | Fr Columba Jordan CFR August 12, 2025
from a theological dialogue with a fellow church nerd August 12, 2025
Breaking False Peace: Camak's Confrontational Non-Violence August 12, 2025
(no title) August 11, 2025
nugget from a draft I'm working on: Radical contentment: God will provide. And if not, He is crucified with us, and we with Him. August 11, 2025

spiritual writings.

5. Thomas Hopko

An Orthodox Christian priest, theologian, and dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, known for his extensive teaching and writing.

6. Marsha Linehan

A psychologist and creator of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), integrating behavioral science with mindfulness and acceptance strategies.

7. Karl Rahner

A German Jesuit priest and theologian, one of the most influential Catholic theologians of the 20th century, known for his work on existential theology.

8. St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

A Polish nun and mystic whose visions and diary led to the Divine Mercy devotion in the Catholic Church.

If we're going to focus on something irrelevant to the gospel, I think that we could come up with something better than western civilization. August 11, 2025

for a young person in pain August 10, 2025

broken vessel dad August 10, 2025

zine 1.0 + ebook (both free) August 10, 2025

(no title) August 10, 2025

Burned by Grace: an underground testimony August 10, 2025

Interior Freedom from Luke 12:32–40 August 9, 2025

pulling together an e-book…

9. Jacques Philippe

A Catholic priest and author specializing in spiritual life, prayer, and interior peace.

10. Fr. Stephen Freeman

An Orthodox Christian priest, author, and blogger, known for his writings on faith and culture.

11. Dr. Sr. Vassa Larin

A Russian Orthodox nun and scholar, known for her online catechetical programs and liturgical studies.

12. Howard Thurman

An influential African-American author, philosopher, theologian, and civil rights leader, known for his emphasis on the spiritual basis for social activism.

here are some one-liners I pulled from the archives August 8, 2025

(no title) August 7, 2025

Don’t be afraid to fire your doctors, therapists, and other providers. Trust your gut. August 7, 2025

Hell is the Pathway to Heaven August 7, 2025

Discerning the Right University: An Issue-Spotting Frame work August 6, 2025

The Naked Gospel: A Manifesto of the Soul August 5, 2025

Discuss what these sources say about Core Theological Concepts, in the larger context of Boyd

13. St. Joseph and the Holy Family

St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, and the Holy Family represent the ideal model of Christian family life and virtues.

14. Martin Luther

A German theologian and monk whose writings sparked the Protestant Reformation, emphasizing justification by faith.

15. Søren Kierkegaard

A Danish philosopher, theologian, and poet, considered the father of existentialism, focusing on Christian ethics and the individual’s relationship with God.

16. John Henry Newman

A 19th-century theologian and poet, originally an Anglican priest who converted to Catholicism and became

Camak's Spiritual Journey & Theology. August 5, 2025
What is the gospel? August 5, 2025
podcast: Beyond Perfect: Forging Authentic Faith in Life's Crucible August 4, 2025
✝️ Signposts from the Front August 4, 2025
Too Catholic to be Catholic? August 4, 2025
From Strategies to Surrender: A Spiritual Journey Beyond Self-Help August 4, 2025
Calling Off the Cavalry August 3, 2025
The Trinity and the Surrender of Burdens August 3, 2025
The Danger of Conventional W

a cardinal, known for his works on theology and education.

17. Lev Shestov

A Russian existentialist philosopher known for his critiques of rationalism and advocacy of religious faith as a response to life's uncertainties.

18. James Cone

An American theologian, known as the founder of Black Liberation Theology, emphasizing the role of the church in addressing racial and social injustices.

19. Anthony De Mello

An Indian Jesuit priest and psychotherapist, known for his writings on spirituality and his approach to integrating Eastern and Western spiritual traditions.

20. Gil Fronsdal

A Buddhist teacher and scholar, known for his teachings on mindfulness and the application of Buddhist principles to daily life.

isdom August 3, 2025
flower power? August 2, 2025
Beyond Dominance: Saint Joseph and the Radical Reimagining of Biblical Manhood August 2, 2025
When Theology Becomes Trauma: A Personal Appeal to Those Questioning Calvinism August 1, 2025
Embracing_the_Outsider__Finding_Profound_Truth_in_Ordinary_Life.m4a August 1, 2025
Does Camak's writing here have anything to offer young adult men? July 31, 2025
podcast: From Overwhelm to Holy Foolishness July 31, 2025

21. Tara Brach

A psychologist and teacher of Buddhist meditation, known for her work on emotional healing through mindfulness and compassion practices.

| Tagged christianity, church, faith, religion, theology | Leave a comment

drive-by non-scholarly incomplete mediation of how the gospel of John IS contiguous with the synoptics

Edit

Posted on May 26, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

The Sower and the Ravens: Trust Beyond Strategy July 31, 2025
overwhelm –> our life, "conceived by the Holy Spirit" July 31, 2025
The Flight to Egypt July 31, 2025
a personal meditation on the dangers of spiritual pride and the quiet dignity of ordinary faith July 31, 2025
a note of encouragement to all of us July 31, 2025
Navigating the Unlit Path July 30, 2025
notes to self 7.30.25 July 30, 2025
"After you." "No. After you." July 30, 2025
What Saint Joseph Teaches Me

I've been noodling tonight on the old topic about the relationship of the Gospel of John to the synoptic gospels. Somewhere along the way I stole that idea about "The Gospel" as the crashing of eternity into flesh-and-blood everyday contingent existence–and that *those contingent events* (narrative discrepancies notwithstanding) are the key to understanding Reality (vs. abstract speculation, for example). So my thought is that (and this is doubtless an oversimplification) the synoptics describe the contingent events themselves, including Jesus' teaching of the Kingdom, while the gospel of John places those contingent events (again oversimplifying) or at least a theologization of those events into an Eternal perspective/context–not to ignore the everyday day-to-day practical teachings of the synoptic gospels, but rather to zoom out (or maybe zoom in/go even deeper?) into the eternal significance, the transcendent significance of Jesus' life (which is a culmination/walking-the-walk of those teachings). And in a way gives the Church a way to think about those contingent events and to enter an experience of what the World would feel like/be like if all of humanity would follow the Way of Jesus. (But even as I write this, I'm reminded of the dualism in John's gospel, as well as the my-way-or-the-highway

About Fatherhood and Masculine Strength July 29, 2025
Choose your own title from a list at the end of this reflection. July 28, 2025
Check, please. July 28, 2025
Milarepa vs. Moses the Black July 28, 2025
#solidarity #suffering #deliverance July 27, 2025
field notes 7.27.25 July 27, 2025
Saying His Name in the Chaos: Not a Curse, But a Cry July 27, 2025
stumbled across this–It's not just about being single or married, it's about the joy of understanding our life

revelation/description of reality delivered by Jesus–in, for example, the parable of the sheep and the goats.) So, at the end of the day, I *can* rely on this short document from Pope Francis that tells me that I'm not an orphan. That I'm a child of the Father. That I have access to the Father: "And so Jesus promises: "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete" (v. 16). Jesus says, "I am going away, but someone else will come who will teach you how to *access the Father*. He will remind you how to access the Father". The Holy Spirit does not come to "make us His clients"; He comes to point out how to access the Father, to remind us how to access the Father. That is what Jesus opened, what Jesus showed us. A spirituality of the Son alone or the Holy Spirit alone does not exist: the center is the Father. The Son is sent by the Father and returns to the Father. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father to remind us and to teach us how to access the Father." I *can* claim these promises. I don't have to dismiss them as wishful warm-and-fuzzy thinking detached from the narratives in the synoptics. In fact, I *can* trust that the gospel of John goes even deeper into Christ's teachings and Christ's life which is a summation/embodiment of those teachings in a way that could not be fully appreciated at the time that those contingent events took place.

circumstances in the context of God's love for each one of His children July 26, 2025

A Rabbi, a Buddhist, and I walk into a bar…a synthesis of some evening thoughts via Buddhist AI on loan (with a message of caveat emptor). July 26, 2025

I had a professor in college who—anytime he had a mental slip—would say: "I only made one mistake, and that was once when I thought I did." 🤣🤣 July 26, 2025

Gram Parsons & Emmylou Harris – Country Baptizing vs. Huck

| Leave a comment

double take Edit

Posted on May 24, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Joy and pain are comingled at the root of our reality. There is always a fly in the ointment. There is always an interruption. Always something that doesn't go according to plan. This is most fully revealed on the cross where the worst possible evil reveals the best possible good. h/t Henri Nouwen

| Leave a comment

What does the term "biblical" mean? Edit

Posted on May 11, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Finn's guilt July 25, 2025
The first canonized saint was a criminal being executed. July 24, 2025
Selling spiritual writing is like demanding money when someone asks you for directions—or requiring a toll in order to see a road sign. July 24, 2025
(no title) July 24, 2025
a zine available for download July 23, 2025
(no title) July 22, 2025
(no title) July 22, 2025
note July 20, 2025
(no title) July 20, 2025
Blessed Assurance_ Rest in Christ's Love.wav July 20, 2025

What exactly does the term "biblical" mean?

If memory serves, the Roman Catholic theologian Karl Rahner wrote about the closing of the canon as an "event" vs. the Eastern Orthodox having a much more fluid understanding…

But in day-to-day discussions I hear this term "biblical" thrown around a lot, and I don't find it very helpful.

Though almost always by good and faithful people of goodwill.

I'm thinking back to my youth. I remember going to a summer camp (NOT run by the Boy Scouts) where I was leaning on my faith while sharing a cabin with some other young men who were not a good influence.

I was from a small town–and this was before the internet became a thing. These other boys had been exposed to more of the world than I had, and in my relative innocence their suggestions had a tinge of trauma.

I had packed a little New Testament with me, which included Psalms and Proverbs. I remember sitting on the top bunk of my bunk bed looking through that little red leatherette Bible, which, as was the custom, had my name embossed in gold on the front

blessed assurance July 20, 2025
DRAFT Dr. ChatGPT & me on weight, etc. July 20, 2025
(no title) July 20, 2025
(no title) July 19, 2025
Suffering: A Path to Divine Understanding July 19, 2025
Ready, set, no go. July 19, 2025
BS Detector July 18, 2025
(no title) July 18, 2025
Gadarene demoniac July 18, 2025
FWIW ICYMI July 18, 2025
ACNA is dead. July 17, 2025
ChatGPT: Did Jesus and St. Paul and the other Apostles and Martyrs “put themselves first,” as the

cover. That was the first time that I encountered Psalm 18:

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who addressed the words of this song to the Lord on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

18 I love thee, O Lord, my strength.
2 The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
3 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

4 The cords of death encompassed me,
the torrents of perdition assailed me;
5 the cords of Sheol entangled me,
the snares of death confronted me.

6 In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

7 Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and quaked, because he was angry.
8 Smoke went up from his nostrils,

common advice goes? Did anyone in the Christian tradition, whether it's St. Thomas or St. Ignatius of Loyola, or the Popes, or any of the saints, did any of them follow this put-yourself-first advice? And what about codependency? July 16, 2025

(no title) July 15, 2025

Alan Jackson's "Chasin' That Neon Rainbow" vs. Jesus' baptism and subsequent temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 3–4, Mark 1, Luke 3–4) July 15, 2025

so true July 15, 2025

(no title) July 14, 2025

and devouring fire from his mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth from him.
9 He bowed the heavens, and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.
10 He rode on a cherub, and flew;
he came swiftly upon the wings of the wind.
11 He made darkness his covering around him,
his canopy thick clouds dark with water.
12 Out of the brightness before him
there broke through his clouds
hailstones and coals of fire.
13 The Lord also thundered in the heavens,
and the Most High uttered his voice,
hailstones and coals of fire.
14 And he sent out his arrows, and scattered them;
he flashed forth lightnings, and routed them.
15 Then the channels of the sea were seen,
and the foundations of the world were laid bare,
at thy rebuke, O Lord,
at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

16 He reached from on high, he took me,
he drew me out of many waters.
17 He delivered me from my strong enemy,
and from those who hated me;
for they were too mighty for me.

What overarching theological themes are explored through comparisons of popular culture and biblical narratives? July 14, 2025

The Angels Rejoiced Last Night-Gram Parsons Emmylou Harris vs. The Good Thief July 14, 2025

Dwight Yoakam – Turn It On, Turn It Up, Turn Me Loose vs. Pentecost in the New Testament July 14, 2025

Randy Travis's "Diggin' Up Bones" vs. Apostles huddled in the Upper Room after the crucifixion July 14, 2025

18 They came upon me in the day of my calamity;
but the Lord was my stay.
19 He brought me forth into a broad place;
he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

20 The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he recompensed me.
21 For I have kept the ways of the Lord,
and have not wickedly departed from my God.
22 For all his ordinances were before me,
and his statutes I did not put away from me.
23 I was blameless before him,
and I kept myself from guilt.
24 Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness,
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

25 With the loyal thou dost show thyself loyal;
with the blameless man thou dost show thyself blameless;
26 with the pure thou dost show thyself pure;
and with the crooked thou dost show thyself perverse.
27 For thou dost deliver a humble

Mark Chesnutt – Old Flames Have New Names (Live at Farm Aid 1992) vs. Mary of Egypt July 14, 2025

Jim Croce's "Box #10" vs. Jesus sending the apostles out with nothing but faith and authority (e.g., Luke 9:1–6, Matthew 10:5–15, Mark 6:7–13). July 14, 2025

The Byrds' "You're Still On My Mind" (rehearsal take #43) and Peter weeping bitterly after denying Christ three times (Luke 22:54–62) July 14, 2025

The Byrds Life In Prison (rehearsal – take #11) vs. Saint Paul

people;
but the haughty eyes thou dost bring down.
28 Yea, thou dost light my lamp;
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.
29 Yea, by thee I can crush a troop;
and by my God I can leap over a wall.
30 This God—his way is perfect;
the promise of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

31 For who is God, but the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?—
32 the God who girded me with strength,
and made my way safe.
33 He made my feet like hinds' feet,
and set me secure on the heights.
34 He trains my hands for war,
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
35 Thou hast given me the shield of thy salvation,
and thy right hand supported me,
and thy help[a] made me great.
36 Thou didst give a wide place for my steps under me,
and my feet did not slip.
37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them;
and did not turn back till they were consumed.
38 I thrust them through, so that they were not able to rise;
they fell under my feet.

39 For thou didst gird me with strength for the battle;
thou didst make my assailants sink under me.
40 Thou didst make my enemies turn their backs to me,
and those who hated me I destroyed.
41 They cried for help, but there was none to save,
they cried to the Lord, but he did not answer them.
42 I beat them fine as dust before the wind;
I cast them out like the mire of the streets.

43 Thou didst deliver me from strife with the peoples;[b]
thou didst make me the head of the nations;
people whom I had not known served me.
44 As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me;
foreigners came cringing to me.
45 Foreigners lost heart,
and came trembling out of their fastnesses.

46 The Lord lives; and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation,
47 the God who gave me vengeance
and subdued peoples under me;
48 who delivered me from my enemies;

in Prison July 14, 2025
The Byrds The Christian Life (rehearsal – take #11) vs. Saint Paul July 14, 2025

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Archives

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yea, thou didst exalt me above my adversaries;
thou didst deliver me from men of violence.

49 For this I will extol thee, O Lord, among the nations,
and sing praises to thy name.
50 Great triumphs he gives to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed,
to David and his descendants for ever.

When I read that scripture I had an encounter with God. It was an emotional tonic. I knew God had my back and that I could ignore those other boys from a place of strength. I even made a new friend. He had made a walking stick for his father that had (providentially I think) rendered John 14:6 as: I am the way, the truth, and the “light.” He told me that he didn’t catch the discrepancy until after the varnish had been put on. But we tacitly agreed, I think, that this was a good thing, because the light of Christ had indeed come into the darkness of our cabin. He didn’t much like the environment either.

To me, that is what the scriptures are all about. Way back when, David had an encounter with God, and he wrote about it, and through his words I had my own encounter with God.

That's why I try to read a snippet of Psalms from the lectionary sometime in the morning as best as I can–not to "be a good Christian," but because I want to have–however brief and muddled and distracted–an encounter with God that comes to me from the outside. Just like the incarnation was the eternal God crashing into finite contingent reality in order to heal it, I need the Psalms to crash into my brain, and hopefully my heart, so that I can have at least some stability as I start the day in a house with young children.

Now is any of this "biblical"? I have no idea. To me, it is a meaningless question.

| Leave a comment

Reality check. Edit

Posted on May 9, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Jesus' Lordship IS Reality. It *does not* need to be "enforced" or "promoted" any more than *gravity* needs to be enforced or promoted. What WE need is for it to be *revealed* —as Jesus did on his throne a.k.a the cross.

| Leave a comment

Only love is stronger than the death penalty.

Edit

Posted on May 9, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

If the bogus “deterrence” argument for the death penalty is sound, why not make executions public for all to see? Wouldn’t that create more “deterrence”? Wouldn’t that be “transparent”?

Ahh, but that would expose this demonic cruelty for what it is–a taxpayer-funded snuff film powered by semi-conscious generic vengeance embedded deep in the collective psyche of a wounded, exploited, resentful body politic.

And then the cycle repeats–with the devil laughing all the way to the bank.

Only love is stronger than death. And that is most clearly seen on a crucifix–

God didn't retaliate against us. He did the opposite.

And the only way to get out of the *hell* of life in *this* world, is to do the same.

| Leave a comment

nowhere to hang our hat

Edit

Posted on May 7, 2024 by Boyd Camak, hypocrite with logs in my eyes. (Matthew 7:3-5) Admiring the counterintuitive way. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Faced with the extent of antisemitism in the Christian tradition, I cannot see how anyone can assert any claim of infallibility for either the New Testament or the Church.

We are broken from the get-go and our institutions and our documents reflect that brokenness—to put it mildly.

We are lost sheep. We are wounded, and all of our responses to G-d reflect that.

We need healing individually and corporately.

The "truth" that Christians have to share is what WE did to Truth

Incarnate—and continue to do—despite any clever casuistry or scapegoating that tries to get us off the hook.

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